

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 27, 2004. Claims 13 to 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 13 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 13 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,335,295 (Ferracini) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,394,693 (Shirley). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 13 is directed to a printing system including an image processing section and a printing section to perform printing on a printing medium based on image data. The system includes a memory for storing the image data, first processing means for executing image data magnifying processing based on first magnifying rate information, and second processing means for executing the image data magnifying processing for an image to be printed based on the image data magnified by the first processing means, based on second magnifying rate information indicating the magnifying rate greater than 100%, wherein the image data magnified by the first processing means is stored in the memory, and the first magnifying rate information is determined based on at least one of a resolution of printing performed by the printing section, a processing load to be borne by the first processing means, a capacity of the memory and a resolution shown by the image data, and a magnifying rate of the image to be printed on the printing medium based on the image data.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 13, particularly with respect to at least the features of a first

processing means for executing image data magnifying processing based on first magnifying rate information, and second processing means for executing the image data magnifying processing for an image to be printed based on the image data magnified by the first processing means, based on second magnifying rate information indicating the magnifying rate greater than 100%.

In this regard, Ferracini is seen to be directed to a method for scaling the size of a digital image by using interpolator module 104 and shrinking module 108. (Ferracini, abstract; Figs. 1 and 2; column 2, lines 60 to 68; and column 3, lines 1 to 33.) In particular, the image processing in Ferracini is seen to magnify the image by scaling factor G1 using interpolator module 104 and then to shrink the magnified image by scaling factor G2 using shrinking module 108, so that the shrunk image is readable. (Ferracini, Fig. 2; column 1, lines 51 to 67; column 2, lines 1 to 19; column 3, lines 56 to 68; and column 4, lines 1 to 4.) As described therein, Ferracini is seen to describe that shrinking module 108 always reduces the image magnified by the interpolator module 104 by a factor, $G2_x$, wherein $G2_x = 1/2^{q_x}$ where $q_x \geq 0$ and q_x is an integer. In accordance with this equation, the value of $G2_x$ may take on the values of 1, $1/2$, $1/4$, $1/8$, etc. but does not, as emphasized in the Office action, exceed 1. As $G2_x$ does not exceed 1, Ferracini is not seen to disclose a second magnifying rate greater than 100%.

In this regard, Shirley is not seen to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Ferracini with respect to the present invention. Shirley is seen to be directed to a system for enlarging or reducing an image by inserting or by deleting rows and lines of the image data array, respectively. (Shirley, abstract; Figs. 1 and 2; column 2, lines 14 to 68; and

column 3, lines 1 to 10.) Shirley, however, is not seen to disclose a second magnifying rate information that indicates a magnifying rate greater than 100%.

As discussed above, neither of the applied references are seen to teach the significant features of the present invention. In addition, even if Ferracini and Shirley were combined, for which combination no motivation or suggestion is seen to be provided, such a combination would not be seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing combination of features of amended independent Claim 13.

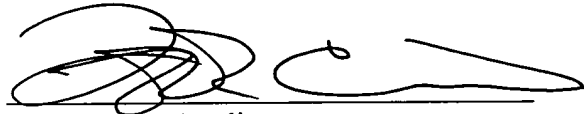
Accordingly, amended independent Claim 13 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. In addition, amended independent Claim 21 is a method claim substantially corresponding to amended independent Claim 13 and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons discussed above with respect to amended independent Claim 13.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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